

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## RETIREMENT CEREMONY FOR MRS. RUTHANNE SLAMKA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to recognize Mrs. Ruthanne Slamka for her many years of service to the National Park Service (NPS), and more specifically, to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Ruthanne's 40 years of service to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore have certainly contributed to the park's success. For her many years of public service and her exceptional dedication to the community of Northwest Indiana, she will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Friday, July 27, 2012.

Indisputably, Ruthanne's tireless devotion to ensuring the success of the park lent itself to the overall growth of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. As you may be aware, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore came into being on November 5, 1966. Ruthanne Slamka began her work with the National Park Service on July 23, 1972 and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore held a ceremony establishing the park on September 8, 1972.

Much work was needed to acquire land within the park's boundary, and Ruthanne served as the primary contact for hundreds of individuals and families whose property was acquired. Her knowledge of the properties and the complex acquisition process earned her the respect of the owners, other government entities, and the public at large. Further, the meticulous transcripts Ruthanne produced provide an exceptional insight into the park's early years, and serve as an invaluable tool for those interested in the rich history of this extraordinary landmark.

Thanks in part to the effort and professionalism Ruthanne demonstrated during her tenure with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, residents of, and visitors to, Northwest Indiana are able to enjoy the Lake Michigan shoreline as well as the miles of recreational trails and the diverse ecosystem contained within the park's wetlands, prairies, and forests. My constituents and I are indebted to Ruthanne Slamka for her contributions to the only National Park within the First Congressional District.

Although she has committed herself to serving her community through her work with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Ruthanne's dedication to her family and loved ones is equally impressive. Ruthanne and her husband, Joseph, have been married for more than 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ruthanne Slamka, and in wishing her well upon her retirement. Her lifetime of service to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and her unselfish commitment to serving her community is truly admirable, and for this, she is worthy of the highest praise.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2012*

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of June 8, 2012, upon request of a leave of absence after 11:00 a.m., a series of votes were held. Had I been present for these rollcall votes, I would have casted the following votes:

On agreeing to the Broun (GA) amendment (Roll No. 372)—I vote "No"; On agreeing to the Scalise amendment (Roll No. 373)—I vote "No"; On agreeing to the Moran amendment (Roll No. 374)—I vote "Yes"; On agreeing to the Flake amendment (Roll No. 375)—I vote "No"; On motion to recommit with instructions (Roll No. 376)—I vote "Yes"; On passage (Roll No. 377)—I vote "No"; and On motion that the House instruct conferees (Roll No. 378)—I vote "No."

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE BEING NAMED "MOST PATRIOTIC SMALL TOWN IN AMERICA" BY USA TODAY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gainesville, Texas as they were recently named the "Most Patriotic Small Town in America" by USA Today.

Last week, Rand McNally Corporation and USA Today announced the winners of the Best of the Road 2012 contest. This contest is a nationwide search for America's best towns for friendliest people, great scenery, terrific food, patriotic fervor, and just plain fun.

I am proud that Gainesville won the category for most patriotic, not only for its number of monuments and memorials and tremendous display of American flags, but especially for the genuine spirit of its citizens. As a finalist, Gainesville hosted a two day patriotic celebration during the judges' visit to the city which included an old fashioned ice cream social and a tour of the city decked out in its best red, white and blue regalia. In addition, the judges recognized Gainesville's Medal of Honor Host City Program, an annual three day celebration honoring the military veterans awarded our nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. Also recognized was Gainesville's unique downtown area with its antique shopping and dining venues situated around the historic Cooke County Courthouse on the square.

Gainesville was established in 1850 through a donation of 40 acres of land by Mary E. Clark. The town was named after General Edmund Pendleton Gaines, a United States General sympathetic to Texas during the state's

revolution. After years of battling off Native American attacks, the city persevered and ultimately prospered. Since Gainesville is near Oklahoma's border, Gainesville became a key trading center. Farming and agriculture eventually took over as the town's primary industry, and after oil was discovered nearby, Gainesville was able to prosper even during a period of severe economic turmoil, the Great Depression. Gainesville is home to numerous attractions including Camp Howze Army training camp and the Frank Buck Zoo. Today, the city of Gainesville is still continuing to multiply its population and business community.

It is an honor to have Gainesville, recognized after 30,000 miles and five other cities, as the most patriotic. I am privileged to represent Gainesville, Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I rise to salute them for their patriotism for our country.

## LYME DISEASE EXPLODING IN U.S., AROUND THE GLOBE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week I chaired the first ever congressional hearing examining the global challenges in diagnosing, treating and managing Lyme disease.

My personal commitment to combating Lyme disease is longstanding—going back 20 years when one of the witnesses we had last week, Pat Smith, attended one of my townhall meetings in Wall Township, New Jersey and asked me to get involved. I did.

On September 28, 1993 I offered an amendment to establish a Lyme Disease Program through the Environmental Hygiene Agency of the U.S. Department of the Army. It passed and became law.

On May 5, 1998 I introduced a comprehensive, bipartisan Lyme Disease bill—H.R. 3795 Lyme Disease Initiative Act of 1998—which had at its core, the establishment of a task force—an advisory committee—to comprehensively investigate Lyme with at least four things in mind—detection, improved surveillance and reporting, accurate diagnosis and physician knowledge.

I reintroduced the bill again in 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011.

I would note parenthetically that that same year, I also introduced a comprehensive law to combat Autism. Despite significant opposition in Congress and at NIH and CDC that paralleled the Lyme bill struggle, it became law in 2000. Last year I authored the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011 which was signed into law in the Fall—with the support of NIH and CDC. If only we had done the same with Lyme Disease legislation in the late 90s—a missed decade on Lyme.

As I have met scores of patients suffering the devastating effects of Chronic Lyme—who

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